

**EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR BERNICAT VISITS  
COX'S BAZAR**

**DECEMBER 21-22, 2015**

**DHAKA, DECEMBER 22** – United States Ambassador Marcia Bernicat traveled to Cox's Bazar to meet with district and local officials, undocumented Rohingya, registered Rohingya refugees, and organizations providing humanitarian assistance in the area. She also visited two USAID-funded projects. One project supports the Government of Bangladesh's National Plan of Action on Combatting Human Trafficking that includes raising public awareness, supporting outbound migrant workers, training police, and providing shelter and support to victims. The other project supports the Prime Minister's Access to Information (a2i) program which, through improved access to modern technology, aims to increase transparency, improve the quality of public services, and reduce the time, cost and difficulty associated with obtaining government services for the underserved communities of Bangladesh.

On the Rohingya issue, Ambassador Bernicat noted that for decades Bangladesh has hosted hundreds of thousands of Rohingya. She expressed appreciation to Bangladesh for all that this country has done to help this vulnerable population. She also reiterated the U.S. commitment to helping Bangladesh, Burma, and countries across the region find just and durable solutions for the Rohingya and to providing protection and assistance to Rohingya refugees, asylum seekers and their host communities.

Since FY 2013, the U.S. government has provided more than \$152 million in life-saving humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons, refugees, and asylum seekers, including Rohingya, in Burma and in the region. This funding supports humanitarian agencies and non-

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governmental organizations which provide medical care, food, water, shelter, sanitation, and access to services for people with disabilities.

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